

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EURE-00 EB-11 COME-00 SIL-01 LAB-06 IO-14

DRC-01 OMB-01 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-19 /155 W

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P R 041536Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3560

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, UK

SUBJECT: THE TUC'S GIFT TO WILSON: OVERWHELMING SUPPORT
FOR THE SOCIAL CONTRACT

REF: LONDON 11293

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE TUC LEADERSHIP, AFTER ELEVENTH
HOUR MANEUVERS, SUCEEDED IN PAPERING OVER SERIOUS MIS-
GIVINGS AND STRONG OPPOSITION BY SOME OF ITS UNIONS TO
THE SOCIAL CONTRACT, THUS SMOOTHING THE WAY FOR PRIME
MINISTER WILSON'S ARRIVAL AT BRIGHTON TOMORROW (SEPT.
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5). THE AUEW, WHICH LED THE FIGHT AGAINST THE CONTRACT,

FINALLY AGREED TO WITHDRAW ITS MOTION OF OPPOSITION AND
THE CONGRESS THEN OVERWHELMINGLY APPROVED IT. END
SUMMARY

2. THERE WAS A DEBATE OF SEVERAL HOURS DURING THE
MORNING (SEPT.4), IN WHICH SPEAKERS OF THE ENGINEERING
UNION (AUEW), THE LOCOMOTIVE DRIVERS, AND CIVIL AND
PUBLIC SERVICES WORKERS, INTER ALIA, ARGUED AGAINST THE
WAGE RESTRAINT INHERENT IN ACCEPTANCE OF THE SOCIAL
CONTRACT; BUT JUST BEFORE A VOTE ON A CRITICAL AND
ESSENTIALLY ANTI-CONTRACT RESOLUTION WHICH THE AUEW HAD
SPONSORED, THE TUC GENERAL SECRETARY LEN MURRAY MADE AN
EMOTIONAL APPEAL TO THAT UNION TO WITHDRAW ITS OPPOSI-
TION. IN RETURN, PROMISED MURRAY, THE TUC WOULD WORK
FOR A NUMBER OF SPECIFICALLY STATED SOCIAL GOALS WHICH
HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN FORMULATED AS PRE-CONDITIONS BY THE
AUEW BEFORE IT WOULD CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF THE SOCIAL
CONTRACT.

3. KEN GILL, NEWLY ELECTED COMMUNIST MEMBER OF THE
GENERAL COUNCIL AND FLOOR LEADER OF THE AUEW'S RESOLU-
TION, THEN DRAMATICALLY WITHDREW HIS RESOLUTION. GILL
DECLARED: "MANY GROUPS HERE VOTING FOR THE SOCIAL
CONTRACT AGREE WITH OUR STAND BUT ARE VOTING FOR IT IN
THE INTEREST OF UNITY. WITHOUT RETRACTING ANY OF OUR
VIEWS, WE TOO ARE PREPARED TO WITHDRAW." THE AUEW, HE
SAID, WOULD INSTEAD ABSTAIN.

4. THE TUC DELEGATES AS WELL AS LABOR PARTY FRATERNAL
DELEGATE JAMES CALLIGHAN WERE VISIBLY HAPPY AND RE-
LIEVED OVER THIS TURN OF EVENTS. A FACE-SAVING SOLU-
TION HAS BEEN FOUND, PRESUMABLY WITH MUCH BACKSTAGE
WORK BY THE TUC LEADERSHIP, WHICH WILL ALLOW PRIME
MINISTER WILSON TO PROCLAIM TOMORROW (SEPT. 5) THAT THE
TRADE UNION MOVEMENT AND THE LABOR GOVERNMENT ARE
UNITED AND WILL COOPERATE IN REVIVING THE BRITISH
ECONOMY. THE ARTICULATED OPPOSITION, AS WELL AS UN-
SPOKEN MISGIVINGS BY MANY UNIONS REPRESENTED AT BRIGH-
TON, WILL UNDOUBTEDLY RESURFACE AFTER ELECTION DAY,
BUT IN THE MEANWHILE THE TUC HAS GIVEN HAROLD WILSON
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WHAT HE WANTS.
SOHM

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Message Attributes

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